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few will hesitate before accepting his view that the federal constitution is a "stiff, unyielding and formidable—because venerable—obstacle to a true democracy, and a strong bulwark of the plutocracy." With the frank advocacy of the popular recall of judicial decisions and with numerous other proposals made in the book, many readers will doubtless find themselves out of accord. Though in most cases the end sought seems desirable, the means would appear to be inexpedient and unwise.

R. GRANVILLE CAMPBELL.

THREE VISIONS AND OTHER POEMS. By John A. Johnson. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company.

THE DANCE OF DINWIDDIE. By Marshall Moreton. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company.

SONGS UNDER OPEN SKIES. By M. Jay Flannery. Cincinnati: Stewart & Kidd Company.

These three volumes of verse are chiefly interesting for the cultured conditions which they incidentally reflect. The first two contain a considerable amount of faulty rhyme and metre and are often crude in sentiment. The author of *Three Visions* notes the fact that at the time of Christ's birth,—

"No canon its deep-toned thunders sound
To waken the echoes the hills around."

The Dance of Dinwiddie is advertised to describe "life along the Ohio River in a Gilbertian vein," but its obvious and rather heavy humor is a far cry from the whimsicality of the Bab Ballads.

"It's human nature p'raps—if so
Oh, isn't human nature low"—

not in morals but in taste.

The *Songs Under Open Skies* is a much better performance. The author knows how to use sonnets, and rondeaus, and terza rima—exotic measures presumably unknown to the other two poets—and there is a healthy, kindly tone (much like that of the obvious model, Mr. James Whitcomb Riley) which relieves the occasional triteness. Moreover, the author catches at times the echoes of those wars and rumors of wars in the

social and moral world which seldom reach the wool-packed ear of the conventional singer. There is some bathos—or is it pathos?—in the dedication of a majestic sonnet to “One Who Saw Matthew Arnold.”

L. W. M.

THE NEW HISTORY. By James Harvey Robinson. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912.

This volume contains eight essays, all of which, except the fourth, “Some Reflections on Intellectual History,” have been printed before as addresses or as contributions to periodicals. This fact, however, detracts in no way from the value of the present publication of the collected essays in attractive form, after careful revision and adjustment so as to give coherent character to the collection and to illustrate clearly the modern historical point of view.

Each of the last seven essays illustrates in a particular way the thesis enunciated in the first; namely, that the present should not be a “willing victim of the past”, but that light on great social, political, economic, religious, and educational questions should be gained by “a perfect comprehension of existing conditions, founded on a perfect knowledge of the past” (p. 21).

Through his own contributions, Dr. Robinson has done much to put the study of history upon a more scientific basis, and this volume of his, by its practical character and scholarly appeal, should exert a wide and helpful influence towards the development of the “new history.”

R. GRANVILLE CAMPBELL.

THE ART AND BUSINESS OF SHORT STORY WRITING. By Walter B. Pitkin. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1912.

Combining the French and American ideals of what a short story ought to be, Professor Pitkin reaches the conclusion that it “is therefore a narrative drama with a single effect.” Even though to some students this definition will seem unsatisfactory, the author’s courage in attempting an original definition is typical of his method. A thoughtful criticism of any literary subject brings one face to face with problems of human life and